"Jesus is the Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5) and the Lamb of God (Rev. 5:6)-he was lionhearted and lamblike, strong and meek, tough and tender, aggressive and responsive, bold and brokenhearted. He sets the pattern for manhood>"
John Piper

Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance
Prayer Study 553F
Lesson Six
WHO ARE WE FIGHTING? Part B

Part 2A: The Spirit of Fear

Perhaps no spirit immobilizes the Body of Christ as much as the Spirit of Fear. Even in the Old Testament, this was a huge problem. One example is of the 12 spies sent out by Moses to get information on the Promised Land. Instead of operating in faith, 10 of the spies operated in fear. They reported to Moses that the people were too strong for the Israelites to overcome and the cities were walled and giants were there. These faithless ones said that they were as grasshoppers in comparison to these giants: *There we saw the giants and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight and so we were in their sight* (Numbers 13:33).

Caleb, on the other hand said to the people and Moses, "*Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it*" (Numbers 13:30). He and Joshua further told the people, "*Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us; their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us; fear them not"* (Numbers 14:9). Nonetheless, the Israelite people accepted the report of those operating in

fear and were going to stone those operating in faith, but the glory of the LORD appeared and stopped them. In this particular incident, God was so displeased with those who walked in fear instead of faith, that He declared the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation of spies, except for Caleb and Joshua, had all died in the wilderness.

We often see the Spirit of Fear manifested in people to whom we minister. The challenge is that fear comes in so many different ways, such as fear of man, fear of death, fear of spiders, fear of rejection, fear of the future, fear of heights, etc., that almost everyone has at least one of them. In fact there are hundreds of phobias. Some of the more common ones are acrophobia, the fear of heights; claustrophobia, fear of enclosed spaces; hydrophobia, fear of water; thanatophobia, fear of death; and ophidiophobia, fear of snakes.

Dr. Paul Cox, head of a ministry in California called Aslan, gives this testimony of a young woman who had a fear of taking a shower:

I had always been afraid of rushing water. I would take baths instead of showers, and when I was in a hurry and had to take a shower, I would have to make sure someone was in the bathroom with me or right outside the door. Family vacations on cruises and to Niagara Falls were scary. We would canoe in the summers in large lakes and I would feel fine. I enjoyed swimming in pools, but taking walks in shallow creeks was horrendous. I was under the impression that this was a "quirk" of mine (in the same way that some people don't like strawberries or people touching their feet). Anyway, someone mentioned to me

that this might be a generational curse, and the next day I met with Paul. We found out that my Swedish ancestors had tied people to the bows of ships and had tortured them by the rushing water that would smash into their victims. This curse had been carried down to me since the 1400's. I renounced the curse and repented for the actions of my ancestors. The next day I could feel the change that had occurred in my life, and the freedom that came with it. Since my generational deliverance, I have had no fear of rushing waters. The change is amazing! I am able to take showers when I am alone in my house, and nightmares about drowning and being terrified in the water have ceased. This issue was very embarrassing to deal with, and I thought that there was nothing that could be done about it. Praise the Lord for delivering me from this curse! Yippee!!!

The spirit of fear, however, is relatively easy to overcome in two ways: 1)By asking for and gaining a revelation of the Love of God, for Perfect Love cast out fear (1st John 4:18: *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear…)*, or 2) by confessing and believing the Word of God (Romans 10:17: *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God)*. Sometimes the victim of this spirit has walked in fear for so long that he will need the assistance of a deliverance minister to be set free of this spirit.

Often when I teach this course, I start out with a teaching on the Spirit of Fear because satan often works overtime to fill unsuspected believers with fear so that they will not stay in a teaching that exposes him and his demonic kingdom. We should not be fearful of the demonic

kingdom, although we do respect the fact that this kingdom has a measure of power. This power is so weak, however, compared to the power we have in the Holy Spirit, in the Blood of Jesus, in the Name of Jesus, and in the Word of God, which is our testimony, our testimony being the Holy Bible scriptures which we can quote aloud to Satan to counter any attack of the wicked one. He hates the Blood, because it is what was necessary to "buy" us back and set us free. He hates the Name because it reminds him of the Lord of Hosts who has *already* soundly defeated him. He hates the Word because it blows his cover and shows how limited his power really is. He hates the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is the one who gives us power to overcome him. There will be a day when we will look on Lucifer and say sarcastically and with amazement as he is brought down, *"Is this the man who made the earth to tremble, who did shake kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness, and destroyed its cities, who opened not the house of his prisoners?"* (Isaiah 14:16-17). Then he will be revealed not as a fallen archangel, which we have been falsely taught, but the cherub he really is. (Ezekiel 28:14-15)

The opposite of fear is faith, again, without which it is impossible to please God, (Hebrews 11:6*: But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*.), but the antidote or medicine for fear is perfect love (1st John 4:18). When the Body has a revelation of how much God loves us, we will have no fear no matter what happens on the earth. This is so needed today for we will see perilous times on the earth

(2nd Timothy 3), and things are only going to get worse and worse until the Babylonian World System crashes. That should not be a fearful thing because God is our source and a stronghold in the day of trouble (Nahum 1:7: *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble*), not the world system or some government or military. In fact, when we see the signs of the times become worse and worse, the eternal Word tell us to look-up for our redemption draweth nigh! (Luke 21:28: ***"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws nigh."***)

A Few Scriptures Pertaining to Fear

2nd Timothy 1:7: *For God hath not given us the Spirit of Fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

Psalm 23:4-5: *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me…*

Psalm 34:4: *I sought the LORD, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears.*

Matthew 8:26: *But He said to them,* ***"Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?"***

Scriptures Pertaining to Faith

Acts 15:8-9: *So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,*

and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Matthew 5:8: ***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***

Romans 10:17: *So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*

Galatians 5:6: *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.*

Ephesians 6:16: *…above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

In an upcoming lesson, we will again look briefly at the Spirit of Fear and see the many characteristics of this spirit operating in a person's life, making our recognition of the Spirit of Fear much easier.

Part 2B: Jezebel

So many churches have been devastated by this spirit operating in one of the members. In our society, we are not properly taught spiritual authority. A pastor, if he is legitimate, has been placed in that office by God and is the spiritual authority in the house. That does not mean we blindly follow leaders or have to agree with everything the

pastor does and says, but we are not to try to usurp God's authority, i.e. the pastor, or maliciously gossip about the pastor. If he is taken in a moral failure, we can express our concern through the proper channels, and the leadership structure established in the church can dismiss him as pastor, or we can leave the church, if this is not done.

Many books in our lifetime have been written on the Jezebel Spirit, and there are probably few spirit-baptized believers that have not encountered this spirit, again a spirit that often causes great destruction and church splits. We must constantly be on guard against Jezebel, in ourselves and others, as it comes to manipulate and control and is an evil spirit that often tries to look good in a religious setting. The Word talks of a Jezebel in the Church at Thyatira:

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou suffereth that woman Jezebel, who calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Revelation 2:20

These are strong words from the Lord of Glory, and, if we do not deal with a Jezebel, we will reap much sorrow and be in sin and out of fellowship with Christ Jesus. The key is to make sure you are really dealing with a Jezebel and not an overzealous and immature believer. In my experience, it is fairly easy to know whether someone is a Jezebel or not.

"Jezebel is a master manipulator who uses flattering words and smooth sayings to seduce your soul. She seeks positions of power, influence, favor and authority that

allow her to control and advance her evil agenda. Jezebel likes to isolate her disciples from others in an effort to control their lives and soulishly addict them to her. She does this through mysticism and false prophecy. The Jezebel spirit is motivated by an insatiable hunger for power and control. Bondage to the Jezebel spirit is an evil form of slavery. Every believer should aggressively stand against this usurper of liberty and join God's abolitionist movement."
(taken from Jonas Clark's book *Jezebel: Seducing Goddess of War)*

Rick Joyner adds this on Jezebel: *"Jezebel is an archetype of witchcraft in scripture. She used her power to control her husband Ahab, the king, and therefore had the real authority over Israel. She was also able to bring such depression upon Elijah that he sought death over life even after his greatest spiritual victory. There is power in witchcraft. Those who are ignorant of it, or who presumptuously disregard its potential to affect them, are very often brought down by it. Many churches, ministries, movements, and even revivals have been stopped and/or destroyed by this evil. All who walk in true spiritual authority must understand it or it will become a significant threat to all that they accomplish.*

Jezebel may have easily overpowered Ahab, but Elijah was certainly no wimp. He single-handedly confronted and destroyed more than eight hundred false prophets in one of the greatest demonstrations of God's power over evil in all of history. Yet immediately after this, one woman operating in the power of witchcraft was able to send the

great prophet fleeing in discouragement. This story reveals the kind of power to discourage that witchcraft can have on anyone ...It was not rational for Elijah to have become so discouraged because of Jezebel's threat, but that is precisely the point: This attack did not come through reasoning: it was a spiritual attack. Reasoning usually has little to do with the power of witchcraft.

Jezebel slammed Elijah immediately after his greatest victory, and it overpowered him. We will often be most vulnerable to this kind of attack after a great victory because it is then that we tend to drop our guard and become more open to pride. Our first defense against the attacks of the enemy through witchcraft, or any other tactic, should be to maintain the humility of knowing that we are standing only by God's grace. Pride leaves a breach in our armor that the enemy can easily penetrate."

Rick Joyner in *Overcoming Evil in the Last Days*

Jezebel, wife of Ahab, wanted to control. To do this, she tried to divide, diminish, and displace the leadership through manipulation; subtle discrediting of the leadership, especially pastoral leaders; emotional and sexual seduction; ability to create soul ties with those whose approval is most important; using prophetic and spiritual giftings to draw people away from God-ordained authority. Jezebel generally believes that most authority is not to be trusted, most authority is incompetent, and "I know the right way to handle this." Jezebel's most common tool is seduction, sometimes sexual and sometimes not. Many Jezebels are closet or latent homosexuals or adulterers, and

the latter particularly go after pastors and have been known to break up marriages.

Jezebel can be either male or female. We have dealt with Jezebel in both sexes here over the years, but the most prominent example was a male with a homosexual spirit. And, by the way, Jezebels are often closet homosexuals, although many are not. Sexuality is, however, a key tool of manipulation that a Jezebel uses, and frequently Jezebels sexually seduce leadership in a church, most commonly seducing the pastor. This is often the root cause of a pastor, who is seen as a good family man, leaving his wife and running off with the church secretary.

I believe that the Absalom Spirit and the Jezebel Spirit are basically the same. Based on 2nd Samuel 13:20-29, 14:23-33, and 15:1-12, Reverend Joel Budd from Tulsa, Oklahoma list the following attributes of the Absalom Spirit, which again is a type of Jezebel to me:

1. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in a basic distrust and resentment of one's authority-either justifiable or exaggerated (13:20-21).*
2. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in a basic independence and self-dependence (13:20).*
3. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in camouflaged bitterness-unresolved disappointments, fear, anger, etc. (13:22).*
4. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in pride (14:27-30).*
5. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in rebellion (14:27-30).*
6. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in a deep-seated desire to be close to/next to/in a place of favor with the one in authority, but not with purity of heart (14:30-33).*

7. *An Absalom Spirit is rooted in impressing and stealing the hearts of the people who are under authority in order to eventually "dethrone" and replace the one in authority (15:1-12).*
8. *An Absalom Spirit manifests in self-promotion (15:1).*
9. *An Absalom Spirit manifests in opportunism/self-advancement at the expense of others (15:2).*
10. *An Absalom Spirit manifests in divisiveness, antagonism, and negative criticism of authorities to promote self (5:3).*
11. *An Absalom Spirit manifests in false humility (15:5).*
12. *An Absalom Spirit manifests in religious hypocrisy and hype (15:12)…"while offering sacrifices…"(15:12).*
13. *An Absalom Spirit manifests in betrayal (15:12).*

Agents Who Promote the Jezebel or Absalom Spirit

1. **Ahab the Provoker**: Ahab is not weak but has insecurities and is easily seduced and will allow Jezebel to come in and take over, usurping his authority and allowing Jezebel to do his "dirty" work. He is usually contentious and argumentative and hostile towards God's true prophets, especially towards the Elijah's of God, the prophetic voices who turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. In most cases, Jezebel cannot operate without an Ahab. Unfortunately, the Ahab is often the pastor.
2. **Eunuchs, the servants of Jezebel:** A eunuch is a castrated male in scripture. Jezebel's eunuchs carry her messages, are her "spies" in meetings, look to Jezebel for her interpretation of scripture, warn her of

impending harm or negative talk about her, are her spiritual children and often ask her for permission to do something in the church instead of asking the spiritual authority whom the Lord has placed there. They lack real spiritual strength. Usually when a Jezebel is kicked out, she or he carry his or her entourage with him or her.

3. **Baal** is a god of prophetic divination, which, of course, is witchcraft. Baal's title is "Lord of the City," which reflects his demonic assignments. Baal was the son of Dagon, who was known as the god of fertility or erotic lust. He is associated with the horoscope, fantasy, and Mother Earth. He was the god of the Philistines. The golden cafe that the children of Israel pulled from the fire was called Baal. (Because of the importance of Baal in the world today, we will discuss Baal in more depth in Part 2C.)
4. **Ashtoreth** is the "goddess of sex" and the "goddess of war." There is a strong connection between homosexuality and the Ashtoreth spirit and with violence and sex, such as sadomasochism, rape, and abusive sex. The worship given Ashtoreth was often accompanied with human sacrifice, the burning of incense, sexual rites, gross sensuality and lasciviousness including homosexual acts and cult prostitution.
5. **Joram,** Jezebel's son, whose name means "The Exalted One" and who exalted himself against God, was killed by Jehu.

6. **Ahaziah,** another one of Jezebel's sons, who represents the one who steals our possessions or our spiritual inheritance, was also killed by Jehu.
   (Both of Jezebel's sons represent demonic spirits.)

Jehu was the one who destroyed Jezebel. His name means "Jehovah is." His father was Jehoshaphat, whose name means "Jehovah Judges." His grandfather was Nimshi, which means "one who sets free." Combining this heritage of Jehu, we get "Jehovah is the one who judges and sets free."

Part 2C: Baal

There are many references to Baal and Baal worship in the scriptures. Baal no doubt is a high level demonic prince, often associated with fertility(both in terms of agriculture and sexual intercourse. The worship of Baal involves lewdness, bloody orgies, human sacrifice, and ceremonial prostitution. The term "high places" in scripture refer to Baal worship where the worshippers publicly perform erotic sexual acts on top of high hills or mountains in full view of all so that everyone could see this: *Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel*-1st Kings 14:22-24. The rituals were an *anything*

goes sexuality and some kind of sacrifice, human or otherwise, for bloodletting because it was thought blood attracted this god's attention. Baalism encourages multiple sexual partners; fornication; adultery; partner swapping; gay licentiousness and sodomy; prostitution; and bestiality, especially sex with cows and the veneration of cows; and body worship, which is rampant in America today.

Baal means *husband, lord,* and *master*. It is the devil's attempt to establish a deity, in place of the true God, on earth, who is seen as lord and master. Also, satan pushes Baal worship most likely because he knows that the practices of Baal worship lead to curses and judgments from God. We see signs of this worship TODAY in Hollywood with provocative dress and nudity; pornography; homosexuality; prostitution; India's sacred cow worship; false prophets who are in it for the money; abortion and other human sacrifices, especially of the first born child; polygamy; divination; demonic rituals as a way to high powers; orgies; adult entertainment; partying; sadistic emphasis on sex and its performance in public places; sodomy; and Greek mythology.

Baal worship goes back to the time of Cain. Unfortunately, Baal worship at times was sinfully even embraced by the Israelites. Gideon's father, for example, was a Baal worshiper. Baal worship was and is addictive because it promotes highly sensuous, erotically driven practices.

Joyfully, perhaps the most important and best remembered point in the Bible concerning Baal worship was Elisha's defeat and total annihilation of the four hundred Baal priests on Mount Carmel in 1st Kings 18:20-

40. However, this did not end Baal worship, and Baal is alive and well on the earth today.

Part 2D: Ashtoreth

Ashtoreth or Asherah (Ishtar, Astate, Ashevah, Moon-Goddess, Venus, Aprodite) was the female consort to Baal (Bel, Ishwar, Shiva, Sun-God). Ashtoreh poles at the high places in Israel were actually phallic symbols representing Ashtoreth's orgiastic worship with Baal. This worship was under the trees, and the trees and other pornographic symbols of the female private parts were in these groves. Associated with Ashtoreth are Easter eggs because it was thought that one of the gods dropped an egg out of heaven one spring, and this egg produced Ashtoreth. The Easter bunny was associated with her because of the high reproductive rate of rabbits. She is often pictured nude, perhaps a forerunner to pornography. She was primarily associated with illicit sex but also associated with divination and fortune telling. Under the names Ishtar and Shiva, Baal and Ashtoreth are still worshipped today in various places, including India.

Jezebel was very much into Baal and Ashtoreth worship. Solomon, because he had several wives who worshiped Ashtoreth, fell into this worship. Also, Sidon and Tyre were two cities much into Ashtoreth worship. Remember the Lord's words in Matthew 11:20-22*: Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:* ***"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bathsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and***

Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you."

King Manasseh was one of the most wicked kings of Judah. Manasseh not only rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah had destroyed (2nd Kings 21), he also took one of the Ashtoreth poles he had carved and put it in the holy temple (2nd Kings 21:7: *He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son: "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.)*

Three men in Israel who destroyed the high places and outlawed Baal worship were Gideon (Judges 6:25-30), King Asa (1st Kings 15:13), and King Josiah (2nd Kings 23:1-7).

Part 2E: Dagon

Dagon's name means corn and fish. He had the body of a fish and the head and hands of a man. He was worshipped because the Philistines believed that he had power over agriculture through the control of water. I mention him here only because he is said to have been the father of Baal and because of the interesting story about him in 1st Samuel 5. God did not allow the Hebrews to use the ark of the covenant, where His presence hovered over, but also did not allow the Philistines who had stolen the ark, to think that their false deity had defeated Him. Not only did the Lord cause the idol statue of Dagon in his temple to fall every night because of the presence of the captured ark there, He finally caused the statue to fall so hard that the

hands and head of Dagon were broken off. Also, the Lord ravaged the people in that town with tumors, forcing the Philistines to send the ark, loaded with five solid gold rats and five solid gold tumors, back to the Israelites. This spirit disrespects the things of God, causing others to do blasphemous things against the God of Israel.

Part 2F: Molech or Moloch

Molech was a false god in the Bible and is mentioned in Leviticus 18:21 (*And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD)* and Jeremiah 32:35 (*And they built the high places of Baal which are in the valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin)*.

The practice of making children, generally the first born, to *pass through the fire* is not clearly explained in scripture, although there are several references to the practice, and it is strongly forbidden by God. My own opinion is that this was a literal thing, not a symbolic thing of causing a child to walk between rows of fire as a rite of purification and acceptance to a false god.

*So, w*hat does pass through the fire mean? I agree with an unidentified Internet commentator, who writes, "*Worship of several gods of the Canaanites included sacrificing their children in the fire. One such god called Molech had statues with up-bent arms that fronted furnaces. The worshippers would place their children in the statues' arms*

like a drawer and slide the child into the fire. The natural reflexes of a burned child amidst the flames would mimic pleasure and make the worshippers feel better about their disgusting deed. God hated that type of idolatry above all others and told the Israelites never to follow such abominable practices. The same evil spirits that encouraged the Canaanites to do something so horrible still hangs around the Middle East, causing the descendants of the Canaanites to blow their own children up in flames for the sake of their religion."

It is an easy jump from this practice to our abortions today. In fact many of the practices of abortionists are no more humane than throwing a child into a fiery furnace. No doubt to me, Molech is behind the whole abortion industry. We should pray against the Spirit of Molech and cry out to God to destroy this evil demonic force's influence in the modern world.